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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6452

BILL NUMBER: SB 293

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 1, 2007

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Voter Registration.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Landske

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
☐ **FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill makes the following changes:

Voter Registration List Maintenance- Defines "active" and "inactive" voters for purposes of voter list maintenance programs.

Registration Deadlines- Clarifies the registration deadline applicable to certain military and overseas voters.

Contents of Reports- Specifies the contents of statewide voter registration system reports.

Voter List Mailings/Returns- Provides that if a voter list maintenance mailing is returned by the U.S. Postal Service or is responded to by a voter during the final 90 days before an election, the response or return shall be processed when registration reopens following the election.

Registration Records Update- Requires that county voter registration records be updated to reflect voter history and other information set forth on precinct polling place lists not later than 60 days after election day or after completion of a recount or contest.

Paper Copies of Cancelled Registration Records- Establishes procedures for processing paper copies of voter registration applications requesting the cancellation of a voter's registration record in another Indiana county.

Registration By Mail- Specifies the periods during which certain first-time voters who register by mail within an Indiana county are to provide additional documentation as required by federal law. (After the establishment of the statewide voter registration system in 2006, this requirement applies only to certain first-

time voters who register by mail within Indiana.)

New Registration Applications- Requires the precinct inspector to request that a voter who is casting a regular ballot at the polls using certain fail-safe procedures complete a new voter registration application.

Certificate of Error- Renames a "certificate of error" as a "certificate of voter registration".

State Department of Health Fees- Provides that an individual who does not have an Indiana driver's license and will be at least 18 years of age by election day may not be charged a fee by the State Department of Health for a birth record search or for the issuance of a birth certification if the record is found, or charged a birth problems registry fee.

Repealers & Technical Changes- Repeals obsolete references concerning the mailing of monthly voter registration transaction reports, and updates procedures for address changes of voter registration records in the statewide voter registration system. The bill also makes technical changes.

Effective Date: Upon passage; July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues: *State Department of Health Fees-* Indiana residents without a valid driver's license and at least 18 years of age at the next general, municipal, or special election would not have to pay fees for certification or amendment of birth records. There would likely be an indeterminable revenue loss to the state from this provision.

Background- Under current law, the State Department of Health charges an \$8 fee to search for records within the division of vital records. One free certification is provided and a fee of \$4 is charged per additional certification. An additional \$8 fee is charged if an amendment is made to the found record. Search and amendment fees are placed in the state General Fund. A separate \$2 fee is charged for each birth record search and deposited into the Birth Problems Registry Fund.

As of January 2006, there were approximately 4.03 M licensed drivers. In CY 2005 the state population of individuals aged 18 or greater was about 4.5 M. Therefore, about 0.47 M persons residing in Indiana could be affected by this provision, or about 10.4% of the state population age 18 or greater. Based on the amount of revenue generated by the \$2 birth problems registration fee (\$106,668 in FY 2006), approximately 53,300 birth records were searched in FY 2006. From FY 2002 to FY 2006 the number of searches increased on average by about 14% per fiscal year.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill would present additional responsibilities for county voter registration offices and precinct election board inspectors. Although the added responsibilities would require additional time to administer, the existing level of local resources should be sufficient to implement them.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Election Division; State Department of Health.

Local Agencies Affected: County voter registration offices; Precinct election boards.

Information Sources: U.S. Bureau of Census; Bureau of Motor Vehicles website and Cash Audit Branch Count Report, December 2003; *Indiana Handbook of Taxes, Revenues, and Appropriations FY 2006*.

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